

Note: information in parenthesis has been added by interview for the purpose of clarification.

SIDE A

- 0 Thor Warhuss was born 7/3/08 in Drammen, Norway which is forty miles west of Oslo. His father was also born in Drammen in 1882. His mother was from the Trondelag district in the north. His parents met and married in Seattle Washington.
- 1:00 In 1904 the Norwegian government called back all its citizens in foreign countries to fight a possible war with Sweden as Norway made a bid for independence. Thor's father returned and joined the army and was sent to the border. However, a peaceful separation was achieved.
- 2:00 His father immigrated in 1901. At first he was visiting relatives (in Idaho, I believe), then he moved to Seattle where he painted houses and worked on a newspaper. At the time his mother was living in Seattle doing needlework to sell.
- 3:00 Thor had one brother and four sisters. His family lived in Drammen, a city of 40,000 which is a seaport and the center of a wood pulp and paper industry.
- 4:00 Thor's grandfather owned a conservative newspaper and three of Thor's uncles and his father worked on it. His father was the political editor.
- 4:00 At this time, after 1905, Norway was experiencing many problems while trying to adjust to independence.
- 7:00 Thor remembers the German blockade of Norway during WWII. At one time no food entered Norway for one week. They ate mush three times a day. They also ate a lot of fish during the war.
- 9:00 The grandparents were the most respected members of the family, and on their birthdays everyone would take them presents while they were still in bed. Then latter dinner was eaten in shifts, with the youngest eating first. The adults got the biggest dinner and dancing afterwards.
- 10:00 Christmas--On Dec. 23, Little Christmas Eve, the children would go to church while the adults decorated the trees, then they would eat the traditional rice pudding with an almond in it. on Christmas Eve everybody walked around the

tree, holding hands and singing. On Christmas the whole family went to church and then had a big dinner.

- 12:00 All through Christams and New Years there were dances and other festivities.
- 13:00 Thor remembers a young Polish refugee, a girl who worked as domestic help in the home. She cooked, sewed, knit, and had all sorts of herbal remedies for illnesses.
- 14:00 On Dec. 1 this girl would start making Christmas cookies, which she stored in large boxes in a locked trunk. Thor and the other children would sneak cookies by stealing the key of her belt.
- 16:00 The Warhuus' was a middle class family. The Polish girl did domestic work, but other work was divided up among the family, especially during the holidays.
- 17:00 Everyday after school the children had to memorize their lessons. Church and school were under one department run by the state, and there were religious lessons every morning. One had to learn two langauges to graduate from high school.
- 20:00 The greatest desire of the boys in Drammen was to be sailors, and if they wanted to get a good position on a ship they had to speak English, because the pilot of any nations vessals always spoke English.
- 21:00 Thor immigrated in 1930. First he had to go to the American Consulate which would only accept physically perfect people. In addition, potential emigrants had to have discharged all obligations. The quota had been dropped in 1930 from around 3,000 to 2,000.
- 22:00 Thor was sponsored by his aunt in Brentwood who had apricot orchards, where he worked for a while. Then he worked for Columbia Steel in Pittsburg.
- 24:00 He moved to Sacramento in 1941 when he got married, went to work for the Southern Pacific in the electrical department.
- 25:00 In Brentwood there had been Danes and Swedes. Thor knew about the Sons of Norway in Sacramento, which was then meeting at the Redmen's Hall.
- 26:00 The Norwegians in the Sons spoke a lot of different dialects. Most preferred to speak English.
- 27:00 Thor did not attend the Norwegian Bethel Lutheran Church because his wife was a Methodist and he wanted to maintain unity in the family.
- 27:00 Activities in the Sons of Norway included bustrips to other lodges and bustrips on May 17 to Golden Gate Park for a concert celebrating Norwegian's independnce from Sweden.

The Sons also participated in the Camelia Festival and Citizenship Day.

- 28:00 Thor's family has visited him in this country. A nephew got a cowboy outfit with guns that the Norwegian customs officials did not want to admit because in Norway there are no war toys sold.. His sister and brother-in-law were perplexed by avacadoes and artichokes.

SIDE B

- 30:00 Thor had a large family and life was very family orientated. In the summer many families would go en mass to the beaches. Some have summer homes where they live during the summer, while the breadwinner stays in the city, coming out on weekends.
- 32:00 His family in Norway is still close knit. One of his cousins has four grown daughters whose cabins are right next to their mother's.
- 34:00 Thor did not have a hard time adjusting to California and he does not feel he experienced any prejudice. However a Dutch friend of his felt that he was mistreated by some colleagues and never forgave them.
- 38:00 Friction between Norwegians and Swedes is traditional, but last year the newspapers and magazines began to start a campaign against ethnic jokes about Swedes that apparently worked.
- 40:00 The Norwegian industry is owned by the government and is bringing a great deal of revenue into the country.
- 41:00 Thor has been home twelve times where he stays with friends and relatives. (All of Thor's family still lives in Norway).
- 45:00 In Sons of Norway Thor is in the Hall and Park Department.